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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT The Sofia University
Faculty of Medicine

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Sofia University Faculty of Medicine is located in the "Aleksandrovska Bolnitsa" (Aleksandrovska Hospital) located on Georgi Sofiyski Street in Sofia. Admission to attend this faculty is governed by examinations and by credits. Between two persons with equal numbers of credits, preference is given to the one who is more prepared politically and who, because of his activities, shows himself to be a stronger adherent of the regime and of the Party. Openings are limited and there is a tendency to reduce them still further, because the number of graduates is already superior to the number of positions available in Bulgaria. In admitting students, preference is given to students from rural areas.
2. President of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Sofia is Professor Doctor Petur Popkhristov who, in 1953, replaced Professor Markov who resigned for reasons of health. instructors at the University:
 - a. Professor Boyan Boyanov, dean of the dentistry section;
 - b. Professor Dinko Stranski, fellow in dental therapy and assistant dean;
 - c. Professor Dimitur Svrakov, fellow in dental therapy;
 - d. Professor Slavko Davidov, fellow in dental surgery, graduated in Germany; and
 - e. Professor Georgi Stilianov, fellow in dental orthopedics.
3. In 1953, 120 persons were graduated in the dentistry section; an unidentified number graduated from the general medicine section and 30-40 persons were admitted to the dentistry section following entrance examinations.

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4. Those studying in the dentistry section attend lectures in general medicine during the first years of the course. They then go on to the dentistry section, and at the end of their training receive the degree of "Doctor in Dentistry and Odontology," although this does not constitute a medical specialty.
5. Until 1950, scholarships were granted very freely so that more than 60 percent of the students held them. Since that time the number of scholarships has been decreasing, so much so that in the 1952-1953 scholastic year, not more than 15 percent of the students held them. In granting scholarships, which are worth 200-240 leva per month, priority is given to those students who are politically active and are found to be bright students. In addition to scholarships, those who show themselves especially intelligent are granted cash bonuses. Reductions in the number of scholarships as well as the decrease in the number of admissions have been made to reduce the number of graduates.
6. At the University, lectures in chemical and bacteriological defense are given, with general mention of the chemical substances which could be used by the enemy. In these lectures chemical elements and epidemics which were already known were discussed.
7. In 1951, Professor Davchenko, a Ukrainian specialist in plastic surgery, from the University of Kiev, arrived in Sofia and held various conferences with the professors and assistants of the medical and surgical faculties of the University.
8. Bulgarian university students, in general, show that they are spontaneous in their feelings toward the Communist regime and in their admiration for the USSR. However, it should be noted that the students who do not take part with enthusiasm and abnegation in the political life of the country may be excluded from the university.

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